

# Senfronia Thompson

## Biography

Texas native Senfronia Thompson was born in Booth, Texas, and raised in Houston. She represents Northeast Houston and Humble.

Dean of women legislators, Rep. Thompson has served longer in the Legislature than any other woman or African-American in Texas history. A Houston attorney, Ms. Thompson is currently serving her 17th term in the Texas House of Representatives.

Rep. Thompson currently chairs the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and the Women's Health Caucus. She is also a member of the Democratic National Committee, a state director of Women in Government, and a member of the Energy Council. She serves on the House Committees on Insurance and Juvenile Justice and Family Issues. For 12 years, she chaired one of the Legislature's busiest committees, the House Judicial Affairs Committees. In 1987, she chaired the first standing committee in the Legislature to have a female majority.

Rep. Thompson has authored and passed more than 200 Texas laws, including Texas' first alimony law, the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act, laws prohibiting racial profiling, the state minimum wage, the Durable Power of Attorney Act, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, the Sexual Assault Program Fund, the Model School Records Flagging Act, the Uniform Child Custody & Jurisdiction Enforcement Act, contraceptive parity, and scores of other reforms benefiting women, children and the elderly. Rep. Thompson pushed through major reforms in child support enforcement, simplified probate proceedings, and complete overhauls of statutes dealing with statutory county courts and municipal courts. In 2005, she passed legislation requiring free testing for the human papilloma virus (HPV), an early indicator of cervical cancer, for women who have health insurance.

Among many other honors, in 2005, Rep. Thompson was presented with the Matt Garcia Award by the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus; *PinkDome.com*